



# Weekly Special Report



Produced by the Public Affairs Section

## INSIDE

### AMERICAN NEWS

Public-Private Partnerships Maximize Development Assistance (P 4)

U.S. Minorities Will Be the Majority by 2042, Census Bureau Says (P 5)

### U.S. ELECTION

Obama, McCain Compete in Wooing Hispanic Voters (P 6)

Experts Ponder Why U.S. Presidential Contest Remains Tight (P 8)

Congressional Candidates Take Campaigns to Facebook, MySpace (P 9)

### INTERNATIONAL ISSUES

U.S.-Libya Compensation Pact Opens Path for Expanded Relations (P 11)

Bush Says Russia Has Damaged Its Global Credibility (P 12)

Russia Will Not Be Allowed to Destabilize Europe, Rice Says (P 13)

United States Pledges Continued Cooperation with Pakistan (P 14)

Palestinian, Israeli Students Team Up to Become Sailing Crew (P 15)

### ECONOMICS AND TRADE

Americans Shocked by Fuel Prices into New Lifestyles (P 17)

Entrepreneurial Boot Camps Light the Way for New Ventures (P 18)

### ART & SPORT

Political Cartoonist Herblock Skewered the Powerful (P 19)

Muslim Filmmaker Looks at Social Issues with Humor, Warmth (P 21)

Sports Come and Go from the Olympics (P 23)

## Ethiopian AGOA Exports Double in First Half of 2008

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 21, 2008 Addis Ababa (U.S. Embassy)** – Continuing a trend of accelerated growth, Ethiopian exports to the United States under the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA) in the first six months of 2008 more than doubled over export levels from the first six months of 2007.

From January-June 2008, Ethiopia's AGOA exports reached USD \$9.7 million, surpassing

the USD \$8.9 million achieved during the entire 2007 calendar year. Ethiopia's AGOA exports from January-June 2007 totaled \$4.4 million. In the first six months of 2008, total Ethiopian exports to the U.S. also rose 89 percent, to USD \$70 million from USD \$37 million in the same period last year. The growth of Ethiopian exports to the U.S. is much greater than Ethiopia's average export growth rate of around 25%.

The textile and garments sector, long considered an under performer given its potential in Ethiopia and the competitive advantage offered under the AGOA zero tariff preference, achieved the highest total exports with an impressive increase of over 160 percent. Other products also recorded significant increases including foliage/bouquet filler (115 percent), live plants (122 percent), and

*(Continued on page 2)*

## USAID Expedites Emergency Food Aid to Horn of Africa

**WASHINGTON, DC --** The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) is expediting the shipment of nearly 24,000 metric tons (MT) of food aid to help the millions of people in need of assistance in the Horn of Africa. The shipment includes 9,390 MT of split yellow peas, 6,150 MT of vegetable oil, 6,320 MT of corn soy blend, and 1,400 MT of

*(Continued on page 3)*



**USAID Expedites Emergency Food Aid to Horn of Africa**

---

## Ethiopian AGOA Exports Double in First Half of 2008 . . .

*(Continued from page 1)*

fruits/nuts (1,495 percent).

The VEGA Ethiopia AGOA+ Program, funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), is the only stand-alone trade promotion program in Africa working to increase exports to the U.S. under AGOA. USAID's VEGA Ethiopia AGOA+ Program has been operating in Ethiopia for the last three years, providing targeted intervention to support Ethiopian exporters gain a foothold in the U.S. market.

"We see great potential for Ethiopia to increase exports to the U.S. under AGOA in general and in the textile and garments sector in particular," says Addis Alemayehu, Chief of Party of USAID's VEGA Ethiopia AGOA+ Program. "With many new investments in the pipeline, our program has focused its support to the Ethiopian Textile and Garments Manufacturers Association (ETGAMA) in order to continue this robust winning streak."

Over the past several months, USAID VEGA Ethiopia AGOA+ has worked closely with ETGAMA, the Ministry of Trade and Industry, the Ethiopian Embassy in the U.S. and the USAID South Africa Trade Hub,

to coordinate the marketing of Ethiopia and Ethiopian made textile and garments to the U.S. market. Final preparations are underway to represent Ethiopia at the prestigious Magic International Apparel Trade Show, Source Africa Pavilion to be hosted in Las Vegas, Nevada from August 25-27, 2008. With the assistance of an international expert provided by USAID VEGA Ethiopia AGOA+, an array of marketing materials has been developed for this major trade promotion event.

In what is another major milestone, USAID VEGA Ethiopia AGOA+ and ETGAMA announced the launch of a brand new, world class website for the association. The website, [www.etgama.org](http://www.etgama.org), is designed to promote Ethiopian textile and garment manufacturers to the global market. A new logo and visual identity has been produced for the association in keeping with modern design principles.

"It is a partnership that is poised to deliver real results for the country as a whole," says Endalkachew Sime, Secretary General of ETGAMA. "The support we have been receiving from USAID's VEGA Ethiopia AGOA+ Program has been invaluable in our efforts to realize the promise which the textile and garments sector holds in becoming

a major foreign currency earner for Ethiopia."

USAID VEGA Ethiopia AGOA+ also recently hosted a successful Ethiopian Diaspora Business Conference in Washington, DC, where presentations were made about how the Diaspora can help Ethiopian producers access the U.S. market. The conference was attended by more than 200 Ethiopian-American professionals and business persons looking to explore business opportunities that exist in Ethiopia.

USAID VEGA Ethiopia AGOA+ was initiated in January 2005 and has made tremendous progress in contributing to the growth of exports from Ethiopia to the U.S. market. The project works in close partnership with the Government of Ethiopia, the Ministry of Trade and Industry, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs through the Ethiopian Embassy in the Washington, DC, the Ethiopian and Addis Ababa Chambers of Commerce and Sectoral Associations, and other development partners including the World Bank Country Office in Ethiopia and the ECA Trade Hub in Nairobi, Kenya. ♦

## USAID Expedites Emergency Food Aid to Horn of Africa . . .

(Continued from page 1)

wheat flour. This is only one of multiple strategies USAID is implementing to alleviate impacts of the world food crisis in that region and elsewhere around the world. USAID's Office of Food for Peace plans to provide over 1 million MT of food, valued at more than \$857 million, to Ethiopia, Somalia, Kenya and Djibouti in fiscal year 2008 in response to the drought emergency affecting the Horn of Africa.

"USAID is committed to helping the people in the Horn of Africa who have been so greatly affected by drought, civil insecurity, and rising local and global food prices," said USAID Administrator Henrietta H. Fore. "Our team in the region is working tirelessly to get aid to those in need as soon as possible."

This expedited shipment is expected to arrive in port in the Horn of Africa approximately 10 weeks after the food aid tender was issued. The food was loaded onto a vessel that is scheduled to depart

the Port of Houston this week and is expected to arrive at port in the Horn of Africa in mid-September. Delivery of U.S.-purchased food aid commodities to the Horn of Africa generally takes four to six months because of the time required to transport the food to a U.S. port, load it onto a cargo ship and trans-

aid contributions continue to originate in the United States, procuring food aid commodities in a country or region where the food aid is used can improve humanitarian response time and reduce costs.

USAID will also begin more than 20 new multi-year assistance programs in 10 developing countries, including Afghanistan, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Mali and Niger. Designed to reduce food insecurity over a three- to five-year period, these programs target the most vulnerable population groups in these countries and include activities to improve agriculture and natural resource management, health and household nutrition, education and microenterprise.



*USAID Expedites Emergency Food Aid to Horn of Africa*

port the commodities to an African port.

In another move to speed food to Ethiopia and Somalia, where needs are greatest, USAID reached an agreement this month with the UN World Food Program (WFP) to purchase emergency food aid in Africa for those countries. While the vast bulk of USAID's emergency food

The United States is the largest donor of food aid in the world and has provided more than \$2.2 billion in food aid worldwide, to date, in fiscal year 2008. In 2007, USAID provided 88 percent of U.S. international food aid and 39 percent of all global food aid. ♦

---

## Public-Private Partnerships Maximize Development Assistance

By Eric Green  
Staff Writer

Atlanta -- Public-private partnerships have become an "essential tool" in the U.S. government's "development toolbox" to help the Americas and the world meet the challenges of the 21st century, an official with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) tells America.gov.

José Cardenas, USAID's acting assistant administrator for Latin America and the Caribbean, said the alliances match his agency's strengths with those of the private sector to improve educational opportunities, the environment and health care in developing countries.

Interviewed before the opening of the second annual Americas Competitiveness Forum, held in Atlanta from August 17-19, Cardenas said public-private partnerships should not be viewed as "corporate philanthropy" or "charity work" to help poor nations. Rather, he said these alliances involve cooperating on issues for which both sectors have proven track records in a way that can benefit not only that business but the society in which the business operates while also promoting security and prosperity in the Western Hemisphere.

U.S. government overseas development assistance amounts to \$20 billion a year, while the flow of private capital from the United States to the developing world is estimated to be as high as \$130 billion a year, according the USAID official.

Those numbers, said Cardenas, make it apparent that USAID can

partner effectively with the private sector "to take advantage of the exponentially rising private capital flows" to help the developing world.

### EXAMPLES OF SUCCESSFUL COLLABORATION

Cardenas said that since President Bush took office in 2001, USAID has formed 680 public-private partnerships globally, with about \$9 billion in partner resources. The agency's Global Development Alliance, launched in 2001 as USAID's new business model, relies on public-private partnerships to multiply the effects of U.S. foreign development assistance.

For example, USAID launched the Investing in Education for Competitiveness Program in the Dominican Republic to help private companies adopt public schools to support training teachers, building libraries and donating school supplies. The partnership includes the American Chamber of Commerce of the Dominican Republic and the Dominican Republic Ministry of Education.

Cardenas, a panelist in a conference discussion on alliances in business and education, said USAID has collaborative agreements with two companies represented on that panel -- the Intel Corporation and

The Home Depot.

USAID works with Home Depot on promoting sustainable forestry management in South America, while the agency partners with Intel in countries like Guatemala to supply low-cost laptops to schoolchildren, said Cardenas.

He also cited Wal-Mart Stores Inc., another company represented at the Atlanta event, for a partnership with USAID in Central America that offers programs to small- and medium-sized producers in cultivation techniques, farm management, post-harvest practices and sanitary and health requirements. In Guatemala, Wal-Mart and USAID are working with the global relief and development organization Mercy Corps, and the Guatemalan non-profit group Fundacion AGIL to improve the lives of small-scale farmers.

(Continued on page 7)





---

## U.S. Minorities Will Be the Majority by 2042, Census Bureau Says

**Washington** -- By the middle of the century, the population of the United States will be larger and more racially and ethnically diverse than earlier projections suggested, with much of the increase due to immigration.

By 2042, minorities, collectively, are projected to make up more than 50 percent of the U.S. population, the Census Bureau said August 14.

By 2050, minorities -- those who identify themselves as Hispanic, black, Asian, American Indian, Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander or mixed race -- will account for 54 percent of the U.S. population, which is projected to total 439 million that year. (The nation's population is currently around 305 million, and about 34 percent identify themselves as a member of a racial or ethnic minority.)

Among the nation's children, the trend is even more pronounced: by 2023, more than half will belong to a minority racial or ethnic group, the Census Bureau said. By 2050, this will jump to 62 percent (compared to 44 percent today).

The Census Bureau predicts a faster-growing and more diverse population than it did previously. In 2000, the bureau projected a population of around 404 million for the year 2050, with minorities accounting for 47 percent. In 2004, the projection jumped to around 420 million and almost 50 percent minorities. Non-Hispanic whites are currently 66 percent of the U.S. population and are projected to be

46 percent in 2050. Today non-Hispanic whites are in the minority in four states -- Hawaii, New Mexico, California and Texas -- and the District of Columbia (Washington, the nation's capital).

Hispanics are the fastest-growing minority group, the Census Bureau said. The Hispanic population is projected to nearly triple, from almost 47 million to 133 million, during the 2008-2050 period, and will jump

new immigration policies, or by other events."

Asians are the third largest minority group -- and the second fastest-growing group -- in the United States, according to the August 14 Census Bureau report, which predicts that Asians will increase from 5 percent of the U.S. population in 2008 to 9 percent by 2050.

The black population is projected to rise from 14 percent in 2008 to 15 percent in 2050, while American Indians and Alaska Natives are projected to increase from 1.6 percent to 2 percent.

Not only will the nation be more racially and ethnically diverse at midcentury, it also will be older, the Census Bureau says. One in five people will be 65 and older by 2050 as that age group more than doubles. By 2050, there will be 19 million people age 85

and older, more than three times today's number.

Meanwhile, the percentage of the population in the "working ages" of 18 to 64 is projected to fall from 63 percent to 57 percent between 2008 and 2050, and over half (55 percent) will be minorities.

The 2000 census was the first in which people could identify themselves as belonging to two or more races. By 2050, the number of people classified as mixed race is projected to more than triple, from 5.2 million to 16.2 million. ♦



*Ethnically diverse trio of sailors saluting (stock photo)*

from 15 percent to 30 percent of the population.

Immigration is playing a leading role in both the growth and changing composition of the U.S. population, points out the Pew Research Center. It finds that immigrants and their descendants will account for 82 percent of the projected population increase from 2005 to 2050. Nearly 20 percent of Americans will be foreign born in 2050, compared with 12 percent in 2005, the center projects. But it also cautions that population projections "can be affected by changes in behavior, by

---

## Obama, McCain Compete in Wooing Hispanic Voters

By Ralph Dannheisser  
Special Correspondent

Washington -- Hispanics, a rapidly growing segment of the U.S. population, could play a deciding role in a close presidential election, and campaigns are making enormous efforts to attract those potential voters and turn them out on Election Day. Efforts range from speeches delivered before major Hispanic organizations, to creation of new Spanish-language campaign Web sites, to huge budgets for advertising -- mainly television spots -- aimed at Hispanic voters.

Hispanics now account for some 9 percent of the U.S. electorate and are the nation's fastest-growing minority group. A U.S. Census Bureau report released August 14 projects their numbers will nearly triple by the year 2050, to about one-third of the population.

Currently, their uneven dispersion throughout the country gives them a potentially key role in political "swing" states like Florida, Colorado, Nevada and New Mexico. Savvy activists representing more than 100 grassroots Hispanic organizations announced plans in July to register 2 million new voters in 2008.

That drive could affect even states without large Hispanic populations. An August 11 analysis by the Milwaukee Journal Sentinel reported efforts by Democrat Barack Obama and Republican John McCain to reach Hispanics "could be pivotal in Midwestern states -- Wisconsin, Iowa and Ohio among them -- where the election could be decided by just a few percentage points."

Both Obama and McCain spoke in July at the annual convention of the National Council of La Raza, a major Hispanic advocacy group. That marked the third time in 15 days each had appeared before a national Latino organization. Both emphasized education, health care and housing, along with immigration reform and other border issues.

"Make no mistake about it: the Latino community holds this election



is in your hands," Obama told La Raza.

Both campaigns are using the Internet to reach Hispanic voters. Republicans launched a Spanish-language section on their convention Web site. Content on [www.gopconvention2008.com/enespanol](http://www.gopconvention2008.com/enespanol) ( <http://www.gopconvention2008.com/enespanol> ) will include live, gavel-to-gavel convention coverage. Democrats will offer Spanish streaming of their convention via their Web site, [www.demconvention.com/es](http://www.demconvention.com/es) ( <http://www.demconvention.com/>

<http://www.demconvention.com/> ) and, in partnership with Comcast and Entravision, will make their feed available to television stations in 20 major Hispanic markets and to 48 radio stations.

### CAMPAIGN BUDGETS FOR SPANISH-LANGUAGE OUTREACH UNPRECEDENTED

Adam Segal, director of the Hispanic Voter Project at Johns Hopkins University, reported in April



that Democratic presidential primary candidates had poured at least \$4 million -- a record amount -- into Spanish-language advertising on Univision and Telemundo. Spending on primaries in Pennsylvania and Puerto Rico would raise the total further, he said. Republican primary candidates also aired Spanish-language ads, and McCain has released general election spots in Spanish.

These expenditures likely will be dwarfed by massive spending in the run-up to the November election: the Obama campaign and the De-

*(Continued on page 7)*

---

## Obama, McCain Compete in Wooing Hispanic Voters . . .

(Continued from page 6)

mocratic National Committee have earmarked \$20 million to target and mobilize Hispanic voters. Efforts, although nationwide, will focus on four key swing states, officials said in July. Spending will be channeled into advertising, online organizing and voter registration, as well as adding staff in key states and training some 500 Latino organizers, they said.

Hopkins' Segal called the announced \$20 million program "absolutely historic." In previous elections, he told America.gov, Democrats "have spent millions and millions of dollars in reaching out to African-American voters, and it's been very successful. The idea here is that maybe they can replicate that by turning out historic numbers of Hispanic voters."

He said that even though the McCain camp also plans to spend "millions of dollars" on courting Hispanics, it has announced no specific figures and its effort does not appear comparable to that of the Democrats. "Most of the spots that have been released by the McCain campaign have been Web videos," Segal notes. "They're not investing a lot of money in [placing] TV advertising right now. They're not going to be able to compete at the same level this cycle."

Univision officials say they expect to obtain up to \$20 million in political ads in the second half of 2008. Officials of Entravision are less spe-

cific, but are quoted by Bloomberg.com as saying that campaign advertising will "come fast and furious."

Overall, Segal said, "there's more money in the system than ever before, for better or for worse -- and for the Hispanic community that's obviously for better, because it means that much more will be spent to mobilize them."

Both sides are working hard to enlist new voters. Existing voting patterns suggest that bringing in more Hispanics would give a bigger boost to Obama. A survey released July 24 by the Pew Hispanic Center, a nonpartisan research group, showed that Hispanic voters already registered favor Obama over McCain by 66 percent to 23 percent.

Those numbers reflect a strong rebound for the Democrats from 2004, when President Bush captured about 40 percent of the Latino vote -- a record for Republican presidential candidates. His campaign manager, Ken Mehlman, called that "the single most important number" emerging from the election.

"Not only is the Hispanic population growing, but the Hispanic vote is growing as a percentage of the overall national electorate. That's quite significant, and it's going to benefit Obama this year, in a year where the Democrats have a significant advantage," Segal said. But, he stressed, "the competition

will be fierce for undecided Hispanic voters, who may help sway a close election."

*(This is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://www.america.gov>) ♦*

## Public-Private Partnerships Maximize . . .

(Continued from page 4)

In announcing that alliance March 5, USAID and its partners called the plan a "bold solution to Guatemala's persistent rural poverty" that aims to help farmers shift from traditional corn and beans production to "demand-driven production" to supply major retailers in Central America.

The alliance with Wal-Mart is part of USAID's effort to increase trade and investments in Central America and to help that region take advantage of the opportunities provided by the U.S. free-trade agreement with Central America and the Dominican Republic (CAFTA-DR).

Cardenas said USAID would not "spend so much time and effort" developing public-private partnerships "if they didn't maximize what we do as an agency -- which is creating stable jobs" for the region's citizens and promoting sustainable development. ♦

---

## Experts Ponder Why U.S. Presidential Contest Remains Tight

By Eric Green  
Staff Writer

*Washington* -- Several factors explain why the 2008 U.S. campaign for president remains close, political experts tell America.gov.

Conventional wisdom says Barack Obama, the presumed Democratic nominee, should be running well ahead of John McCain, the presumed Republican nominee, because of polls showing Democrats in general far ahead of Republicans nationally and because Republican President George Bush has low favorability ratings with the American electorate.

But Scott de Marchi, a political science professor at Duke University in North Carolina, said the race seems tight "for a couple of reasons, mostly unrelated to the campaigns" the two candidates are waging.

McCain, said de Marchi, has "better name recognition at present -- he's been a fixture of [American] political life for some time, and he has a very compelling story" that includes having been a prisoner of war during the Vietnam War.

In addition, Obama "had a much rougher ride" in the Democratic primaries than McCain confronted in the Republican primaries, "especially in terms of negative attacks" from Obama's opponent, Democratic Senator Hillary Clinton.

"There's been doubt cast" about Obama's perceived lack of experience in national politics, de Marchi said, "and it doesn't help" that the Illinois senator is African American. De Marchi pointed to political observers who cited Obama's race as contributing to Clinton's victories in

the 2008 West Virginia and Pennsylvania Democratic primaries.

However, de Marchi said, Obama's race "helps him just as much in terms of the black vote," making some states in the American South potentially competitive if there is a large black turnout in the region.

Obama also may gain from increased turnout among young people who favor the Illinois Democrat, de Marchi said. But "turnout is very difficult to predict. Anyone who tells you they know what this works out to be is overly confident," he said.

Neither candidate, de Marchi said, is doing a great job with TV political commercials. Obama "still isn't presenting bold enough policy," and McCain's "idiocy" for airing an ad comparing Obama to vacuous Hollywood celebrities "isn't helping him with anyone" who remains undecided.

De Marchi said he believes the contest is not "as close as the polls are showing."

"It's increasingly hard to get valid polls, and if you look at some of the groups supporting Obama [youth and minorities], they don't have" landline phones and "can't be easily reached" by pollsters, he said.

"If you look at registration and fundraising, Obama has advantages," de Marchi said.



*Professor Scott de Marchi says many voters have yet to focus on the 2008 U.S. presidential race.*

Ultimately, said de Marchi, "I'd bet on Obama" to win the presidency, "given the financial edge" he has over McCain and party registration patterns that favor the Democrat.

The bottom line, he said, is that it is still a month before the race typically heats up in September in anticipation of the November 4 vote. De Marchi said not many people are paying attention to the presiden-

tial race, despite heavy media coverage of the campaign.

### OBAMA, MCCAIN CONSIDERED COMPELLING CANDIDATES

Darrell West, vice president and director of governance studies at the Washington-based Brookings Institution, said the election is close because each party is "nominating a strong candidate. Both have compelling personal stories and each of them runs well among political independents."

Contrary to de Marchi's criticisms, West said both candidates are running effective political ads. He said a McCain ad called "Maverick" defines the Arizona senator as having "taken on his own party and strong special interests."

That commercial, West said, "represents a great way to separate McCain" from the unpopular Bush administration.

*(Continued on page 10)*



---

## Congressional Candidates Take Campaigns to Facebook, MySpace

By Danielle Zielinski  
Special Correspondent

Washington -- Virginia Senate hopefuls Jim Gilmore, 58, and Mark Warner, 53, grew up in a world without Facebook or MySpace.

They didn't weigh friend requests, post their favorite photos online or leave messages on friends' walls.

But now, Warner's Facebook page broadcasts to the world that he's a fan of Bob Dylan and Star Trek. Gilmore's MySpace profile says he's a Libra and includes birthday wishes from supporters.

It's all part of campaigning in the digital age.

"It is taking these tools and giving people a way to connect with the campaign," said Jesse Mallory, who handles field communications for Gilmore's campaign. "A lot of it is taking the traditional aspects of the campaign and adapting it to the modern day."

Candidates in this year's Virginia congressional races increasingly are turning to social networking sites as an integral part of their campaign strategy.

Warner's campaign Web site links to his Facebook page, as well as a Twitter feed where constituents can subscribe to real-time updates (called "tweets") on his whereabouts. Recent "tweets" included "heading over to the Fiddler's Convention in Galax," and "at Lynne's Family Restaurant in Mathews." Gilmore also keeps profiles on Facebook and MySpace, and his campaign Web site includes "blogger resources" where voters can

download computer backgrounds with his logo or a browser bar featuring a news feed of his activities.

Candidates for the Virginia 2nd Congressional District seat are equally Internet-savvy. A few clicks on Representative Thelma Drake's campaign page and you can be her friend on Facebook or MySpace, or watch her give a speech supporting fellow Republican John McCain on YouTube. Her opponent, Democrat Glenn Nye, boasts his own digital photo gallery, a Facebook group with more than 200 supporters and links to MySpace and LinkedIn on his campaign page.

It's a wise move, according to a January study on campaign news and political communication by the Pew Research Center for the People & the Press and the Pew Internet & American Life Project. The study found about one in five Americans use an online social networking site such as MySpace or Facebook, and these sites may be taking on an important political role in the lives of young people.

Two-thirds of Americans ages 18 to 29 use social networking sites, the study found, and 27 percent said they got information about candi-

dates and campaigns from such sites. Among those ages 18 to 24, that figure rose to 37 percent. Additionally, nearly one in 10 people under age 30 said they had signed up as a "friend" of a candidate on a social networking site.

"We don't tell youth what tools to use -- they tell us," Mallory said. "They like the Facebook and the



*Jim Gilmore*  
*Virginia Senate candidate*

*Mark Warner*  
*Virginia Senate candidate*

MySpace."

Providing an access point in the digital world often can translate into support for more traditional campaign events. Recently, Nye's Facebook group advertised a fundraiser for young professionals at a supporter's home in Virginia Beach.

Online photos and videos also have proved popular in Virginia 2nd races this campaign season. All the congressional candidates link to YouTube from their campaign sites, and many post news and video clips directly on their campaign home pages.

*(Continued on page 10)*

---

## Congressional Candidates Take Campaigns to Facebook, MySpace . . .

(Continued from page 9)

According to the Pew study, nearly a quarter of Americans say they have watched something about a political campaign online -- a speech, interview, advertisement or debate. Roughly 40 percent of people under age 30 have watched at least one form of campaign video online.

The potential political impact of Web video was made clear in the 2006 Virginia Senate race, where a video of then-incumbent Senator George Allen mocking a young Indian-American working for his opponent became a YouTube sensation. Allen's loss was attributed in part to the widely circulated video.

Ana Gamonal, communications director for Gilmore's campaign, said

she takes bloggers and online journalists just as seriously as print journalists from Virginia's major newspapers. Both MySpace and YouTube are becoming sources of campaign news that target younger voters. In the study, MySpace was cited as a campaign news source by 8 percent of young online election news consumers, while less than 1 percent of those ages 30 and over got news there. The pattern for YouTube was almost identical.

Younger voters traditionally have been a hard-to-reach demographic, with less than half of people ages 18 to 24 voting in the last four presidential elections. But it seems the tide is beginning to turn. This year, young voter turnout tripled or even quadrupled in many primary states. More than 6.5 million young voters participated in the primary

contests and caucuses this year, an increase of 103 percent over 2004.

After the 2006 midterm elections, Democratic Senate candidate Warner emphasized the participation of young people in a blog entry for his political action committee, Forward Together:

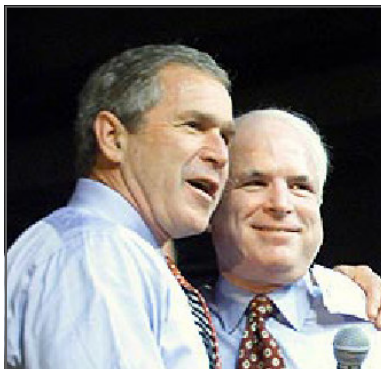
"Because ... we believe it's about the future versus the past -- and yes, because I have an avatar in the virtual online world of Second Life, friends on Facebook, some podcasts on YouTube, and a historic text message youth voter registration contest -- we were particularly proud to see this statistic: Exit polls show young Americans voted in the largest numbers in at least 20 years in congressional elections," Warner wrote. ♦

## Experts Ponder Why U.S. Presidential Contest Remains Tight . . .

(Continued from page 8)

Meanwhile, West said, "Obama is running ads showing pictures of Bush and McCain together and arguing they are Siamese twins who think the same way. That is an effective way to make the argument that a McCain victory would represent Bush's third term."

West said the fact Obama is black "affects every aspect of this campaign from polling and media coverage to public opinion." Public opinion polls, he said, have



*McCain (right) hopes to succeed Bush as president.*

"overestimated support for African-American candidates so that is something Obama needs to worry about."

White Americans "might tell pollsters they plan to vote for Obama even though they ultimately will not do so," said West, who in September will speak at a seminar in

Germany, organized by the U.S. Embassy in Berlin, on the U.S. electoral process.

### CONTEST GETS HOTTER IN SEPTEMBER

"I would not put too much faith in

the polls right now," said political science professor John Geer of Vanderbilt University in Tennessee. "Around September 10th, they will start to matter."

Regarding the political ads, Geer said McCain's commercials have drawn more attention than those aired by Obama.

"McCain has gone negative and with some flair. But whether it has changed voters' minds is far from clear," he said.

Geer said the "context" for the presidential election favors Obama. ♦

## U.S.-Libya Compensation Pact Opens Path for Expanded Relations

By Merle D. Kellerhals Jr.  
Staff Writer

Washington – The United States and Libya have reached an agreement to resolve lawsuits by American and Libyan victims of terrorist attacks and bombings in 1986 and 1988, says Ambassador David Welch.

"Under this agreement, each country's citizens can receive fair compensation for past incidents," Welch said August 14 in Libya's capital Tripoli. "When fulfilled, the agreement we signed today will permit Libya and the United States to move ahead in developing their relations."

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said August 15 she will visit Libya before the Bush administration leaves office to celebrate this turnaround in U.S.-Libyan relations. She will become the first secretary of state to visit Libya since 1953.

The settlement for outstanding lawsuits includes victims of the 1986 terrorist attack on a Berlin disco that killed three people and wounded 229, and the 1988 terrorist bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, that killed 270 people. It also provides for Libyans killed in 1986 when U.S. warplanes bombed Tripoli and Benghazi, killing 40 people.

"The conclusion of this agreement has been made possible also by action by the American Congress, which passed a new law [Libyan Claims Resolution Act] that President Bush signed on August 4," said Welch, who is the U.S. assistant secretary of state for Near

States has removed many sanctions against Libya and also has removed Libya from its State Sponsors of Terrorism list.

"We look forward to developing this relationship in every aspect, and to putting U.S.-Libyan relations on a



*Ambassador David Welch, left, and Libyan official Ahmed al-Fatouri sign a compensation agreement in Tripoli.*

Eastern affairs. "I am optimistic that this agreement will be implemented quickly. If so, it will mark the completion of a process that began in 2001 that has already seen Libya take steps forward as a model among nations to renounce terror and weapons of mass destruction."

The relationship improved dramatically in 2003 when Libya accepted responsibility for the Lockerbie bombing and announced it would halt its pursuit of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons. The United

States has removed many sanctions against Libya and also has removed Libya from its State Sponsors of Terrorism list.

*(This is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://www.america.gov>) ♦*



---

## Bush Says Russia Has Damaged Its Global Credibility

By Merle D. Kellerhals Jr.  
Staff Writer

Washington -- President Bush met with then-Russian President Vladimir Putin at the Black Sea resort of Sochi in early April to discuss security relations between the two former Cold War super-powers. At the end of the conference, the two presidents issued a new U.S.-Russia Strategic Framework Declaration designed to give the next administrations of both nations something to guide them through the first years of their presidencies.

But in the aftermath of the harsh Russian-Georgian conflict this month over two break-away provinces of Georgia, the administration has begun a careful re-evaluation of that strategic framework and what it means for the future.

At stake is an array of international issues, U.S. officials said, in which Russia and the United States have been working closely: North Korea and the Six-Party Talks, Iran and possible additional U.N. Security Council sanctions, and a number of other issues.

The future course of U.S.-Russian relations will be determined to some extent by what happens in the days and months to come, U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates said recently.

"We clearly have seen a side of

Russia that we had hoped was a thing of the past, and we obviously are going to have to re-evaluate the direction of the strategic relationship with Russia going forward," Gates said August 17. "That depends to a considerable extent on their behavior from this point for-



*President Bush, with CIA Director Michael Hayden, right, and Deputy Director Stephen Kappes, discusses the Russian-Georgian conflict.*

ward."

President Bush put the matter more directly at a White House briefing August 15.

"Bullying and intimidation are not acceptable ways to conduct foreign policy in the 21st century. Only Russia can decide whether it will now put itself back on the path of responsible nations, or continue to pursue a policy that promises only confrontation and isolation," Bush said.

Bush said the Cold War is over and the days of satellite states and spheres of influence that often characterized relations among nations also are gone. A contentious

relationship with Russia is not in America's best interest, nor is such a relationship in Russia's best interest, he said.

"With its actions in recent days Russia has damaged its credibility and its relations with the nations of the free world," Bush said. Part of recovering that credibility and respect includes respecting the freedom of its neighbors, he said.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, who is traveling to Brussels, Belgium, where she will confer with the North Atlantic Council at NATO and the European Union, said there is no doubt that there will be further consequences. She briefed the president at

Bush's Crawford, Texas, ranch on August 16 after meeting with Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili the day before and announcing that a cease-fire accord had been reached.

"For the first time in memory, Europe is becoming a continent that is whole, free and at peace," Bush said. "Unfortunately, Russia has tended to view the expansion of freedom and democracy as a threat to its interests. The opposite is true: Free and prosperous societies on Russia's borders will advance Russia's interests by serving as sources of stability and economic opportunity."

*(Continued on page 16)*



---

## Russia Will Not Be Allowed to Destabilize Europe, Rice Says

*By Merle D. Kellerhals Jr.  
Staff Writer*

*Washington* -- Russia will not be allowed to win in Georgia and destabilize Europe by creating spheres of influence along its borders, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said after an emergency meeting of NATO foreign ministers in Brussels, Belgium.

"We're determined to deny them their strategic objective," Rice said. "We're not going to allow Russia to draw a new line at those states that are not yet integrated into the trans-Atlantic structures like Georgia and Ukraine."

The North Atlantic Council, the policymaking body of the alliance, met August 19 in Brussels and agreed to create a NATO-Georgia Commission to oversee cooperation with Georgia on a wide range of political, economic, security and related issues, and to help achieve the goals set at the 2008 Bucharest NATO Summit, Rice said. Among those goals were plans eventually to offer membership in the alliance to Georgia and Ukraine through a process known as a Membership Action Plan.

The council also agreed on the need for Russia to honor the six-point cease-fire agreement between Russia and Georgia brokered by French President Nicolas Sarkozy on behalf of the European Union, Rice said at a press conference following the council meeting. Russia agreed to withdraw its armored combat forces from Georgia to positions held by both countries on August 6 before fighting erupted over Georgia's South Ossetia region. The North Atlantic Council also declared its support for Georgia's territorial integrity, independence and

sovereignty.

Finally, NATO ministers agreed that the alliance will not allow Russia to create a line between those states that are members of the trans-Atlantic alliance and those that still seek to become members, Rice said.



*Secretary Rice addresses reporters at NATO headquarters August 19.*

"NATO does not accept that there is a new line, and we are acting as if there is no new line," she said. "That is why both the establishment of the NATO-Georgia Commission and the meeting that will take place next week [August 25-29] of the NATO-Ukraine Commission, as well as the visit of NATO permanent representatives to Georgia, are important steps that demonstrate that principle."

Use of the phrase "no new line" is a geopolitical reference to the "Iron Curtain" that divided the East and West during the nearly 60 years of

the Cold War.

The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe also met August 19 at its headquarters in Vienna, Austria, and agreed to provide 100 additional military monitors in Georgia as rapidly as possible, said U.S. Ambassador Julie Finley. "We expect that this decision will not pre-empt the establishment of further international mechanisms, in accordance with the six-point plan," she said in a prepared statement.

Rice said getting the OSCE military monitors into Georgia and the disputed regions of South Ossetia and Abkhazia is consistent with point five of the cease-fire plan that called for international observers. It is essential that the OSCE monitoring force be in place as part of a broader resolution of the conflict because it will be a neutral peace-keeping force.

"The behavior of Russia in this most recent crisis is isolating Russia from the principles of cooperation among nations of the communities of states when you start invading small neighbors, bombing civilian infrastructure, going into villages and wreak[ing] havoc and wanton destruction of this infrastructure," she said. "That's what isolates Russia."

And Rice said Russia's use of military force in Georgia and the resumption of Cold War-era strategic bomber patrols off the coast of Alaska is a brinkmanship that could backfire. She pointed out Russian flights along the Norwegian coast and other recent challenges to NATO members. ♦

---

## United States Pledges Continued Cooperation with Pakistan

By Stephen Kaufman  
Staff Writer

Washington -- The Bush administration expressed strong support for Pakistan's democratically elected government and pledged its continued partnership with the country in the aftermath of President Pervez Musharraf's resignation.

In an August 18 statement, Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said, "Respect for the democratic and constitutional processes ... is fundamental to Pakistan's future and its fight against terrorism," and offered U.S. support for the civilian government's desire to modernize the country and build democratic institutions.

Musharraf, who ruled Pakistan for nine years, resigned August 18 after political rivals in the newly elected parliament threatened to impeach him over actions such as imposing emergency rule and firing judges during his tenure in office. He took power in a 1999 military coup but agreed to abandon his military command in late 2007.

Secretary Rice said the outgoing president has the "deep gratitude" of the United States for being "one of the world's most committed partners in the war against terrorism and extremism." She said the United States will continue to work with Pakistan's government and political leaders and urge them not only to combat the growth of violent religious extremism, but also to address food and energy shortages, and improve economic stability.



*Outgoing Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf salutes as he leaves the presidential house in Islamabad, Pakistan on Monday, Aug. 18, 2008. (AP Photo/Emilio Morenatti)*

"The United States will help with these efforts to see Pakistan reach its goal of becoming a stable, prosperous, democratic, modern, Muslim nation," Rice said.

In an interview with Fox News on August 17, Rice said Musharraf had been a "good ally" of the United States. "Everyone knows that we disagreed with his decision in terms of the state of emergency that he declared. But ... he kept to his word, he took off the uniform, [and] it's now a democratic government in Pakistan," she said.

In Crawford, Texas, near the ranch where President Bush is vacationing, National Security Council spokesman Gordon Johndroe said August 18 the political transition

had been a decision taken solely by the Pakistani government and President Musharraf.

"These are issues that they're going to have to work through their political process," he said. As far as Pakistan's continued cooperation against terrorism, he said, "This is a fight that they are in, as well."

He said al-Qaida leaders recently had released a video threatening the Pakistani government. Thousands of Muslims, including Pakistanis, have been killed by al-Qaida and other extremist groups.

"So we're all in this together, and the people of Pakistan and the government of Pakistan know that."

Along with counterterrorism cooperation, the United States remains committed to providing social and humanitarian aid to the people of Pakistan and is "devoted to helping improve education, health care and infrastructure," Johndroe said.

"We want to help the people of Pakistan get through their food emergency [and] ... the concern they have and that we have over the economic condition of Pakistan. And so we're confident that we will maintain a good relationship with the government of Pakistan," he said.

*(This is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://www.america.gov>) ♦*

---

## Palestinian, Israeli Students Team Up to Become Sailing Crew

By Stephen Kaufman  
Staff Writer

Fairhaven, Massachusetts -- For six Israeli and Palestinian 17-year-olds, life on a swaying vessel off the Massachusetts coast offers a unique opportunity to interact and learn how to live and work together. On Fritha, a 22-meter sailing vessel, they spend three weeks cooking and cleaning for each other, putting political divisions aside for the more immediate task of keeping the boat clean and in smooth operation.

"It's an exciting opportunity. We're seeing successes and what a ship provides for individuals," says Eric Dawicki, president of the Northeast Maritime Institute in Fairhaven, which is hosting the program with logistical help from the State Department.

Dawicki, who has spent much of his life on and around boats, including service in the U.S. Coast Guard, said the idea of the program came to him after hearing a Palestinian colleague discuss the Middle East conflict and the need for better ways to promote integrated conflict resolution. "The solution is a ship," Dawicki told him.

He explained the "three-watch system" in which teams divide up the chores on the ship -- ranging from cooking the meals, picking up trash to cleaning the toilets and washing the deck -- requires close coordination and cooperation, and there is very little privacy.

"My experience from going to sea has been that the worst of enemies, personal enemies, have become the best of friends just based on that watch system, that watch rotation. So there's no ability to venture off. They really have to learn how to work together," he said.



*Six Palestinian and Israeli 17-year-olds are learning to work as a team aboard the sailing vessel Fritha.*

To fully integrate the crew of 17-year olds, Israelis and Palestinians of different genders paired off into three teams.

Palestinian Gabi said he and his Israeli partner, Tal, must work together as one. "Each one has a job and each one has to help each other in doing that job," he said. So far, communication has been good between him and his Israeli peers.

"We don't care for the conflicts and these things. We just hang out with each other and like that," he said.

Tal says the daily chores are not exactly "fun," but "I don't feel like there is a difference between doing things here on a team or at home with my friends."

"We live on a boat!" she said. "Here you really get to control this thing. ... It's different. It's amazing."

### PROGRAM PIONEERS

At the conclusion of the program, the six students will have learned enough to be able to work on similar sized ships as deckhands or support staff. Dawicki says that after their introduction to topics such as oceanography, sailing, port operations, marine ecology and biology, they can start seeing the maritime industry as the source of career opportunities.

He also hopes they will consider returning next year to serve as counselors for the next group of students.

"These kids are the pioneers of the project, yet we want them to be support staff as well into the future ... even if only two or three are able to do that," he said.

The six already have left their mark on the future of the program by collectively designing the burgee, or maritime flag, that will fly on Fritha to represent the program.

*(Continued on page 16)*

---

## Palestinian, Israeli Students Team Up to Become Sailing Crew . . .

(Continued from page 15)

Palestinian Nathalie said everyone came up with his or her own idea for the flag and presented it to the group. "In the end we mixed all the ideas into one idea, and so we made the flag," she said. Dawicki said this was one of the first exercises in getting the students to communicate and compromise with each other.

As a group, the six plan what they will eat, negotiating dietary restrictions, allergies and food preferences, and then the team charged with making the meal does the work.

Elizabeth MacWhirter, from Maryland, usually drives the students around to stores and museums, plans their daily schedules and makes the necessary reservations. She said the six are becoming



*Eric Dawicki and the State Department's Bob Senseney show off the program's flag, designed by the students.*

closer, not only due to boat life, but also from their shared tastes in pop culture and the desire for American fast food.

"It started out when we would get in the car [and] it would be three and three, but now they're completely comfortable there, which is nice, and they'll speak English to

each other. And we'll listen to the pop music really loud -- all of them want it really loud -- and then we'll sing together," she said.

Dawicki says so far the program has gone "fantastically well," but he has noticed the Israeli kids are more used to the freedom and self-expression than their Palestinian peers. One of the greatest moments came, he said, when a normally shy and withdrawn Palestinian girl took a ride on a racing vessel and soon found herself smiling from ear to ear.

"You just knew that was the moment where she caught the bug -- where she just felt free," he said. Witnessing her expression, "you get the lump in the throat and the tears in the eyes and I thought, wow, this is just a fantastic moment, and that was just a transition." ♦

## Bush Says Russia Has Damaged Its Global Credibility . . .

(Continued from page 12)

Bush said in recent years that Russia has sought to integrate into the diplomatic, political, economic and security structures of the West, and that the United States has supported those efforts. "Now Russia has put its aspirations at risk by taking actions in Georgia that are inconsistent with the principles of those institutions," he said.

At a Pentagon briefing August 14, Gates announced that a multinational naval exercise involving Russia that was to have begun August 15 had been cancelled, as has a U.S.-Canadian-Russian security exercise, Vigilant Eagle, that was to have begun August 20.

"In the days and weeks ahead, the Department of Defense will reexamine the entire gamut of our military-

to-military activities with Russia and will make changes as necessary and appropriate, depending on Russian actions in the days ahead," Gates said.

*(This is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://www.america.gov>)* ♦



---

## Americans Shocked by Fuel Prices into New Lifestyles

*This is the third article in a series on the oil crisis.*

*By Andrzej Zwanecki*  
*Staff Writer*

Washington -- A visitor returning to the United States after a one-year absence would not notice much difference in how Americans live. But changes abound, if one looks at statistics.

In the first five months of 2008, drivers traveled 2.4 percent fewer miles than in the same period of 2007, according to the U.S. Transportation Department. Trips on subways, buses and light rail reached a 50-year high in 2007. Bicycle riding has skyrocketed. Sales of gas-guzzling sport utility vehicles have plummeted.

Americans are changing their ways in response to high fuel prices, according to economists.

A June poll conducted for the Washington Post indicates that, for the first time, the majority of Americans believe rising gas prices are causing financial hardship.

Experts say consumers' response likely signals a long overdue cultural shift that may put the United States on a more "sustainable" path in terms of its energy use.

U.S. Transportation Secretary Mary Peters said she believes Americans have already passed the tipping point.

### WHAT WENT WRONG?

The oil crises of the 1970s taught Americans to use fuels judiciously, experts say. But as petroleum



*Some U.S. employees, like these in Seattle, on "Bike to Work Day," have switched from cars to bikes to get to work.*

prices stabilized around \$20 per barrel in the 1990s, American consumers abandoned prudence and bought ever more powerful, gas-guzzling vehicles and ever bigger houses.

As city residents continued a decades-long move outward, settling in suburbs and exurbs (areas beyond suburbs), their commutes lengthened. Average U.S. daily petroleum consumption, of which transportation represents more than two-thirds, increased by almost 20 percent from 1995 to 2005, according to the Energy Information Administration.

"Now, as the cheap energy is going, going, almost gone, we are experiencing a paradigm shift," Steve Andrews, an energy expert based in Denver, told America.gov.

The change will not be fast or easy, he and others caution.

### WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

Transitioning to the next generation of hybrid and electric vehicles, which can help reduce America's oil dependence, will take time and a lot of money. Major automakers, which for a long time did not see the need for vehicles burning less or no oil, began pursuing innovative technologies seriously only when Congress enacted tougher fuel economy standards in 2007.

Transforming the pattern of U.S. urban development will take longer. One illustration of the status-quo mindset comes from the state of Maryland, which recently decided to invest billions of dollars in a highway project rather than improve its public transportation.

Some other states, counties and cities were introducing standards for higher-density, transit-oriented development and encouraging biking, telecommuting, carpooling and the use of public transportation to address suburban sprawl, traffic congestion and fuel use even before the current crisis.

But Douglas Farr, a Chicago architect who published the book *Sustainable Urbanism*, says these solutions will not amount to much if they are separate from each other, even if adopted on a broad scale. He calls for a plan that integrates such solutions in compact, walkable and transit-served settlements with energy- and water-efficient buildings.

Farr told America.gov that the first major test of America's willingness

*(Continued on page 24)*

---

## Entrepreneurial Boot Camps Light the Way for New Ventures

By Judi Hasson  
Special Correspondent

**Washington** -- A new generation of entrepreneurs, already out of school, is turning to entrepreneurial boot camps to learn how to launch a business, find seed money and help their companies grow.

The programs take their name from military boot camps that train soldiers in combat skills. But these boot camps are not physically taxing. Instead, they provide the mental skills to help new businesses succeed.

"We took the title from the concept of military training, which focuses on process, discipline, accountability, teamwork and constant honing of one's skills, all the same requirements for successful sales management," said Jack Derby, the founder of Derby Management LLC in Boston, who has been holding boot camps for three years.

Boot camps take place in many parts of the United States, offering an average of 2.5 days of counseling and costing less than \$1,000 per person. The sessions are run by successful entrepreneurs and are designed to teach hopeful businesspeople to develop strategic plans and to sustain a company over time.

Potential entrepreneurs meet others who have succeeded and engage in a variety of mental exercises to help them develop ideas into sound business plans, without sitting in a classroom looking at a computer screen or reading books about how to start a company.

For most participants, their companies are not quite launched. "There are some who are still in the 'back of the napkin' phase," said Scott Olson, who runs SPARK, a non-profit in Ann Arbor, Michigan, that holds two entrepreneur boot camps a year. He said some participants have started a business that is operating, but they need help figuring out how to run it better.



*Participants in an entrepreneurship program held by Charter Partners Foundation in Pennsylvania in 2007*

Attendees learn where to find venture capital and how to promote their businesses. Each student is teamed with a mentor, who critiques or even picks apart the student's business summary.

Todd Sullivan, of Ann Arbor, attended one of Olson's workshops as he began his company, spiritshop.com, a Web site for T-shirts that can be custom-designed. There is no minimum order: Anyone can design a single T-shirt. The business has taken off, posting \$3 million in annual sales.

"You start out in a class that helps you write a business plan. You take that plan into other classes. You have coaching along the way. They

are teaching you how to do the 30-second pitch, a three-minute pitch and how to talk to venture capitalists," Sullivan said.

Stephen S. Hau, the founder of Boston-based PatientKeeper, makers of software that gives doctors the tools to manage patient information on a handheld computer, took part in the Entrepreneur America Boot Camp in Hamilton, Montana, a number of years ago.

That camp is run by well-known entrepreneur Rob Ryan. (Ryan founded Ascend Communications, which made hardware for Internet providers and was sold to Lucent Technologies Inc. in 1999 for \$24 billion.)

Hau followed the boot camp's road map, and his company has been growing ever since. It has cornered 12 percent of the U.S. hospital market and went global this year.

"There are a lot of inventors who are not entrepreneurs. Just because you invent something does not mean you are an entrepreneur," Hau said. "Boot camp turns inventors into entrepreneurs. Having someone coach you can be very helpful."

But not every entrepreneur who goes through a boot camp is a success story. Sometimes the boot camp discourages those whose ideas are not ready for development, and sometimes a budding entrepreneur himself realizes his idea is not good enough.

"There have been some who have come out of camp and decided they didn't have a market, their idea did-

*(Continued on page 22)*

## Political Cartoonist Herblock Skewered the Powerful

By Lauren Monsen  
Staff Writer

*Washington* -- To friends and acquaintances, Herbert L. Block (1909-2001) was an unassuming man with a gentle demeanor, but to U.S. presidents from the 1930s to the 1990s he was a scourge who wielded his wit like a blunt instrument, often at their expense.

Block -- better known as Herblock, the pen name he used as the United States' most prominent political cartoonist for nearly seven decades -- won three Pulitzer Prizes (in 1942, 1954 and 1979) and shared one more with The Washington Post in 1973 for that newspaper's coverage of the Watergate scandal. His sketches served as an indispensable guide to the political landscape of his day, delighting some readers and infuriating others.

Now, as U.S. voters prepare to elect their country's 44th president, the Smithsonian Institution's National Portrait Gallery has mounted an exhibition of Herblock's cartoons that features highly critical images of the 11 presidents who held office while Block was plying his craft.

"The political cartoon is not a news story and not an oil portrait. It's essentially a means for poking fun, for puncturing pomposity," Block said in 1977.

The exhibition, titled Herblock's Presidents: "Puncturing Pomposity," begins with a 1938 cartoon that mocks President Franklin D. Roosevelt's foiled attempt to pack the



*A 1998 sketch of President Clinton shows him muddied by scandal en route to his State of the Union address. (© Herb Block Foundation)*

U.S. Supreme Court with his supporters and ends with a 1998 sketch of President Bill Clinton wading through mud in the wake of revelations about his illicit relationship with White House intern Monica Lewinsky. According to historian Sidney Hart, curator of Herblock's Presidents, 40 cartoons were selected for the exhibition from among the 14,000 Herblock drawings owned by the Library of Congress.

"We went for the negative cartoons; they were the strongest," Hart said. "Block talked about the power of a negative idea or cartoon having a ... constructive role" in reinforcing the accountability of elected officials.

### STANDING UP FOR THE UNDERDOG

Block joined The Washington Post in 1946 and remained there for the next 55 years, honing his talent for capturing the distinctive characteristics of presidents and their cronies. By the 1950s, Block was an icon of sorts; his cartoons appeared on the editorial pages of the Post and were syndicated in newspapers across the country.

The cartoonist was straightforward about his political sympathies: He tended to favor Democratic presidents (although he took them to task when they disappointed him), and he usually distrusted Republicans. He didn't aim for balance or nuance, Hart said. "His cartoons were black and white in their meaning; there were rarely shades of gray."

Block typically "attacked people in power who didn't do the right thing," and concern for the disadvantaged was a recurring motif, Hart said. "He adored Roosevelt and [President Harry S.] Truman, and he admired [President John F.] Kennedy," but he did not ignore their failures. He turned against President Lyndon B. Johnson when Johnson began diverting funds from social programs to prosecute the Vietnam War. While Block initially had high hopes for President Jimmy Carter's agenda of reform, he came to believe Carter was incapable of addressing the nation's problems.

The cartoonist also was disillusioned with Clinton, whom he often portrayed as an indecisive leader. Block felt Clinton tried to implement too many disparate programs in-

*(Continued on page 20)*



## Political Cartoonist Herblock Skewed the Powerful . . .

(Continued from page 19)

stead of forging a more limited, but coherent and achievable, agenda.

But Block reserved his harshest criticism for Republican presidents, particularly Richard M. Nixon and Ronald Reagan. "He took an immediate and visceral dislike to Nixon" on account of Nixon's willingness to engage in a style of bare-knuckle politics that Block considered deeply unsavory, Hart said. Herblock cartoons usually depict Nixon with a perpetual five-o'clock shadow, lending him a thuggish appearance. Nixon reportedly shaved twice a day to avoid resembling the caricature, to no avail; Block declared that Nixon had "a moral five-o'clock shadow."

As for Reagan, Block regarded him as "an amiable dunce," Hart said, yet Block never underestimated Reagan's political skills. In one Herblock sketch after another, Reagan appears as a cheerful but vacuous figure, and his policies are portrayed as naïve and wrong-headed. Nonetheless, Block "was fearful of Reagan's gift for communication," Hart said.

### POWERFUL VISUAL METAPHORS

Block created powerful visual metaphors for his ideas. For example, Nixon and his cronies often were portrayed crawling out of a sewer, suggesting that their brand of politics was unusually dirty. When Nixon was under investigation for allegedly authorizing his staffers to break into the Watergate Hotel to steal documents from his Democratic political opponents, Block depicted Nixon being pursued by a



*In a 1970 cartoon, President Nixon tells his sewer-crawling vice president how to smear their opponents. (© Herb Block Foundation)*

giant bloodhound that represented the forces of justice.

Block "also loved imagery from [Lewis Carroll's novel] *Alice in Wonderland*," Hart said. A Herblock cartoon from 1977 shows Carter perched in a tree, transforming himself into the disappearing Cheshire Cat, a famous *Alice in Wonderland* character. Carter offers a toothy smile to a distressed Alice, who watches as Carter's lofty goals of welfare reform, full employment and health insurance fade into oblivion. The cartoon's caption is straight from Carroll's classic novel: "This time it vanished quite slowly, beginning with the end of the tail, and ending with the grin." Another cartoon, from 1984, depicts Reagan beaming from a televi-

sion screen, while the viewer -- Alice -- steps through the screen to join him. The caption, "Through the looking glass," reinforces Block's belief that Reagan's world view was topsy-turvy.

Unlike many political cartoonists, Block was granted almost total editorial independence, and his towering professional stature was probably the reason. (By contrast, said Hart, *The Washington Post* has occasionally refused to publish controversial sketches by its current editorial-page cartoonist, Tom Toles.) Since Block's death, no other political cartoonist has been nearly as dominant -- or has had such longevity. For one thing, Hart said, "the major newspapers will never again be as influential as they were during the mid-20th century" because they now have to compete with the Internet.

"The vividness of [Block's] drawing, his powerful metaphors, his unambiguous messages: They all combined to give his work tremendous impact," Hart said. "Block thought that if a cartoon didn't have a point of view, it wasn't worth anything."

Herblock's Presidents: "Puncturing Pomposity" opened May 2 and runs through November 30.

More information ( <http://www.npg.si.edu/exhibit/herblock/> ) about the exhibition is available on the National Portrait Gallery Web site.

*(This is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://www.america.gov>)* ♦



## Muslim Filmmaker Looks at Social Issues with Humor, Warmth

By Serena Kim  
Special Correspondent

Los Angeles -- On a parched August afternoon in Los Angeles, Lena Khan peruses the aisles of Hand Prop Room, a company that supplies stage props for major Hollywood movies such as *The Aviator* and *The Departed*. From faux meat carcasses to bronze Thai Buddhas, the shelves are stuffed with gizmos, gadgets and curiosities that help make the magic of cinema. Wearing a pale green headscarf and a demure beige cardigan, Khan discovers and unsheathes a two-foot long ninja sword with a mischievous look on her round, pale face. "This will work," she says.

Though she defies expectations of what a filmmaker should look like -- she is young, female, devoutly Muslim and Indian American -- the 24-year-old film school graduate writes and directs music videos and short films, as well as commercials for a restaurant called Crave. (In one ad, a ninja throws whirling samosas).

Khan won \$5,000 for *Bassem is Trying*, a one-minute short that humorously demonstrates how a Muslim-American man tries to fit in -- for instance, by blasting hip-hop music on his car radio. Her three-minute short *A Land Called Paradise*, essentially a music video set to a song of the same name by Muslim country singer Kareem Salama, won a \$20,000 grand prize from One Nation, a Muslim advocacy group that sponsored the film competition. Khan directed dozens



Filmmaker Lena Khan

of men and women of diverse backgrounds to hold up handwritten signs that express messages they would like the world to know about them as Muslim Americans. The statements are as whimsical as "I, too, shop at Victoria's Secret," or as serious as "My sister died on September 11."

One of the judges for the 2007 One Nation competition, former professional basketball player Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, gave *A Land Called Paradise* high marks for its "beautiful cinematic language," while journalist Mariane Pearl commended the film "for its freshness

and sense of humor while addressing vital emotions felt by the Muslim population and the rest of us."

Pulling off *A Land Called Paradise* was a major effort, Khan recalled. The project started with a question: "If you could say something to everybody in the world who is not Muslim, what would you say?"

"I sent out e-mails; I went to mosques; I used every major Muslim Listserv I could think of," she said.

The first response Khan received was "Islam inhibits my suicidal thoughts." "That's when I knew that this was the video I was going to do," she said. "I wouldn't have thought of that. I was trying to fix the representations of Muslims, but I don't think I can

speaking for all of them. And this was my first clue. I got 2,500 responses, collected them, narrowed them down and made the video."

Since the video's launch, Khan has received hundreds of e-mails from people who say the video has made them cry, inspired them to open a discussion about Islam with their families or broken down walls built by stereotypes. The video also opened professional doors for Khan, such as a meeting with the documentary filmmaker Morgan Spurlock. The Muslim Public Affairs Council, at a dinner in Hollywood,

*(Continued on page 22)*

---

## Muslim Filmmaker Looks at Social Issues with Humor, Warmth . . .

*(Continued from page 21)*

recognized her as a filmmaker to watch.

"If I hadn't entered the contest, I'd be at the same place as I was before," said Khan, a graduate of the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) film school.

Khan became interested in cinema as a form of social activism, which she considers an important tenet of her faith. Because she is about to get married, she was expected to accept a diamond engagement ring. "I didn't want to have anything to do with the diamond industry, the blood diamonds. It's just really bad," Khan said. "My parents are like, 'Why are you being so lame? Just go buy a diamond. It's not that big a deal.' But I do think it's a big deal. It's a test to see if you can sacrifice your own things for other people." She chose a big moissanite ring instead.

And when shooting on location, she insists on using caterers who cook

only free-range chicken. "My brother always makes fun of me and calls me Lisa Simpson," Khan said, referring to the wonky, intellectual younger sister from the American cartoon television series *The Simpsons*.

As an undergraduate majoring in political science and history at UCLA, Khan noticed that students would become interested in genocides such as those in Rwanda and Darfur only if they saw a movie about the topic or if an actor publicized the cause. She also was tired of seeing Hollywood films such as *The Siege* and *Black Hawk Down* use images to connect terrorism to ritual ablutions and the call to prayer.

"These things ate at me. So I decided that instead of complaining about them, I would enter the field and do something about it," Khan said. "I wanted to make movies about social issues because it seems like movies are the best way to tell a story -- that's when people really listen and relate to people

who are going through those things." She went on to get a master of arts degree in film at UCLA.

Back at Hand Prop Room, Khan digs into a box of ninja stars. Once she has selected her props, she hops in her dusty red Toyota Prius and drives over the Hollywood Hills to Western Costume Company in search of ninja masks and suits.

In addition to her ninja commercials, her future projects include a set of commercials about the presidential election and another music video for Salama.

But when it comes to a 40-minute personal film that she is making, she said only, "They expect something big and popular. So yeah, I have a little bit of pressure there." It's up to Khan to make it look like magic.

Lena Khan's videos *Bassem is Trying* and *A Land Called Paradise* can be seen on YouTube.com. ♦

## Entrepreneurial Boot Camps Light the Way for New Ventures . . .

*(Continued from page 18)*

n't have legs. Others have launched their businesses and continued product development," Olson said.

Derby said his program includes a case study of a classic startup and the financials that go with it, how to find equity financing and how to meet investors.

Forty percent of those attending boot camp have no revenue, Derby said, but they have plenty of ideas,

ranging from Web-based companies to medical devices to new games.

Using Derby's curriculum, the Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce in Rhode Island held a boot camp earlier this year called the Entrepreneur Launch Pad. Andrew Schiller said it helped him move his company strategically forward. Schiller is the chief executive of Location Inc., in Woonsocket, Rhode Island. The company offers a Web site that helps homebuyers locate what they want in a

neighborhood and evaluate data on such issues as school ratings and crime rates.

"It helped move the company forward. It really moved the needle," Schiller said. "It made us focus. There was a seminar on business acumen and doing the right things to move the site forward."

The Providence chamber plans another boot camp in September 2008. ♦

## Beijing's Olympic Village Provides Comfort, Duck for Athletes

This article by a freelance contributor to the U.S. Olympic Committee's Web site (<http://www.teamusa.org>) originally appeared August 11 and is reprinted with permission.

(begin byliner)

From Big Beds to Duck, With Loving Care

By Tommy Hine  
[www.teamusa.org](http://www.teamusa.org)

Yao Ming will rest comfortably every night he's in Beijing - every single inch of him. Special extended 8 ½ -foot beds have been supplied China's 7-foot 5-inch basketball star and NBA players so their feet won't dangle off the ends.

Nothing but glowing praise has been

heard for the new apartment complex in the Olympic Village that will house the world's best athletes over the next 16 days. "The facilities are excellent, probably the best Olympic venue and village that I've been at yet," said veteran U.S. archer Butch Johnson. He should know. The former gold medalist has lived in five different Olympic Villages.

The numbers in this new complex are staggering: 42 buildings, 3,276 apartments, 9,993 rooms and 16,000 beds. Every room has a full-length mirror, night table and lamp, a full-length closet, shiny marble floors and a framed picture hand-drawn by Beijing school children for

each athlete to take home. A 4,036-person staff runs and maintains the massive complex. "We want to keep the village services like a hotel," said Jinzhi Hsu, Olympic deputy accommodations manager.

If athletes feel ill, the polyclinic medical facility is within a 10-minute walk of every apartment in



*U.S. athletes Ryan Reser, left, and Taylor Takata arrive for the flag-raising ceremony at the Olympic village in Beijing on August 5.*

the village. It provides basic medical services in dermatology, orthopedics, gynecology, radiology and optometry, in addition to emergency treatment.

"We've been averaging 50 patients a day," said neurosurgeon Zhao Yuanli, assistant director of the polyclinic. "That number will only increase every day once competition begins."

If athletes want to exercise or play games between training and competition sessions, the village fitness center is within an easy walk. Besides the 50-meter lap pool, there is a DVD lounge and an exercise and weight room.

"The Cubans and Australians are on the stationary bikes every day," said Isabella Farnedi of Technogym, manufacturer of the special cardiovascular and strength equipment. "(Wimbledon champion) Rafael Nadal was here yesterday. A personal training key inserted in each machine records all the data of each athlete so they can see their day-to-day improvement."

Mid-afternoon, French tennis star Tatiana Golovin, 2006 U.S. Open quarterfinalist, could be seen playing air hockey. Three athletes from Spain played pool. An American swimmer slowly swam laps.

Athletes with insatiable appetites can get their satisfaction 24 hours a day in the dining hall, a massive building that has been producing

20,000 meals a day and seat 5,048 athletes at one time. "You'd be surprised how many are in here at 3 a.m.," said Catherine Toolan, executive director of the Olympic services catering project for Aramark. "Everyone is on a different schedule."

"By the time the village is full, we expect to be serving as many as 22,000-25,000 meals every day. Your biggest fear is running out of a particular item. You don't want to produce too much or too little. It's a fine line."

Toolan deals in metric tons, not pounds, when placing her orders:

*(Continued on page 24)*

**PUBLIC AFFAIRS  
SECTION  
AMERICAN EMBASSY**

P.O.Box 1014  
Addis Ababa  
Ethiopia

Phone: 251-11-5174007  
251-11-5174000  
Fax: 251-11-1242454  
Email: pasaddis@state.gov

**Web site  
[http://  
ethiopia.use  
mbassy.gov](http://ethiopia.usembassy.gov)**

See also

<http://www.america.gov/>

Telling America's story

**Beijing's Olympic Village Provides Comfort, . . .**

*(Continued from page 23)*

50-60 tons of food every day, one million apples over the next two weeks, 2 million slices of bread, 2,000 tons of meat and seafood, 2 million bottles of water.

"We have 1,000 menu items," Toolan said. "For people with special dietary needs, we handle every special request we can. It could be something as simple as preparing a white fish with garlic and oil.

"We prepare salads like in any other country, and every salad item is washed with filtered water. I assure you the food is extremely safe."

The five Olympic dining facilities operated by Aramark require 7,500 employees. The main dining hall alone needs 2,300 employees and 1,000 chefs. "Everything cooked is

very authentic," Toolan said. "The favorite meal among athletes is the Peking duck or pizza.

"We prepare 300-400 ducks every day. That's a lot of duck."

Tommy Hine is a freelance contributor for teamusa.org. This story was not subject to the approval of the United States Olympic Committee or any National Governing Bodies.

(end byliner)

*(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://www.america.gov/> ♦*

**Americans Shocked by Fuel Prices into New Lifestyles . . .**

*(Continued from page 17)*

to tackle the issue will come in 2009, when the next Congress considers a transportation bill, which sets priorities and funding for highways and public transportation.

**WILL GOVERNMENT ENTER THE FRAY?**

Consumer demand and demographic changes, which support retreat from suburbia, will drive the transformation more than Congress, experts say. Graying baby boomers gravitate toward city centers, and their out-of-college kids are drawn by downtown nightlife.

Developers will refocus on cities if they have profits to make, according to Farr. And there is potential for good profits.

"Sustainable urbanism is the biggest economic opportunity we have ever seen," he said.

But Farr believes the government must get more involved.

Many experts share this view. Andrews said more drilling for oil in the United States should be made contingent on measures designed to dampen demand, such as reducing and strictly enforcing speed limits and introducing incentives for consumers to buy fuel-efficient or electric cars.

Michelle Foss, an energy economist at the University of Texas at Austin, rejects the notion that government intervention is necessary and says it is often counterproductive. She told America.gov she believes the market itself will force

necessary changes, as evidenced by recent consumer behavior.

Farr said, however, that car-based suburban development has not been a product of unrestrained market forces but rather of the system of direct and indirect subsidies "rigged for us to drive more." This system must be dismantled, he said.

David Garman, an energy consultant who served in the Bush administration as under secretary of energy, believes the federal government should do more. For example, he told America.gov, numerous studies indicate that it makes much more economic sense to fund technology research and development early than try to impose solutions later. ♦